United Nations E/2017/NGO/1

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Statement submitted by Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09120 (E) 080617

Please recycle

Statement

The principle of the charter of United Nations amongst others from SDGs, Goal 1 No Poverty, is a goal towards the eradication of poverty across the Globe

Poverty is a global phenomenal. One of the sustainable development actions to No poverty is green growth whereby practices of agriculture should be a major area and countries across the globe take bold steps at reducing poverty to minimal level and its total eradication. Day to day, peoples' involvement in cultivation enable its agricultural products to be available for the consumers. This also balances rural-urban migration by reducing the influx of farmers migrating en masse to the cities, searching for alternative jobs. The agriculture sector should be considered in various government policies through provision of grants, equipment and affordable transportation systems for farmers to be more effective. Proceeds generated from farm products in-turn are sources of income for farmers thereby preventing poverty and at large eradicating poverty.

Another key area to eradication of poverty is the issue of "corruption", which has deepened the economy of all nations, through neglect of duties by constituted authority, diverting public funds etc., subjecting the citizenry to abject poverty. If corruption is reduced, the economy of nations will boost and poverty level will reduce at high speed.

Rural/Underrepresented consideration: The inhabitants of rural communities should enjoy as much as people living in the urban areas. Lack of potable water, social and infrastructural amenities, and other basics needs subject these inhabitants to abject poverty. Hence, a call to the Government to take adequate care of the underrepresented across rural and local communities.

Illiteracy: Lack of access to education is also an impediment to achieve Goal 1 of No Poverty, Some 263 million children and youth are out of school, according to new data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS). This is equivalent to about a quarter of the population of Europe. The total includes 61 million children of primary school age (6-11 years), 60 million of lower secondary school age (12-14 years), and the first ever estimate of those of upper secondary school age (15-17 years) set at 142 million. These findings are presented in a new paper released jointly by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education. This contributes immensely to the poverty level and slows down the eradication of poverty.

Climate change also contributes to poverty especially for those in Sub Sahara Africa. At the early hours when the sea level rises, the riverine inhabitants cannot go for usual trading via boats; the schools are also locked to protect the wards.

In conclusion

- Agriculture should be well managed by farmers and supported by the Government.
- Corruption should be curbed.
- Rural/Underrepresented must be adequately catered for by the Government.
- Education should be free.
- Governments, International Bodies, Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Non-Profit Organizations (NGOs) and Grassroots Organizations should come to the aid of the people who are vulnerable to climatic change.

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Statement submitted by AVSI Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

Human dignity, inclusive partnership and the unique contribution of women

AVSI Foundation (AVSI), in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1996, has several decades of experience in planning and implementing long-term development programs and emergency responses in almost 30 countries (Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia). Today, AVSI is implementing 130 projects in urban development, health, agriculture and food security, water supply, energy and environment in collaboration with more than 150 diverse partners, and reaching more than 2.6 million direct beneficiaries.

The common thread in these cooperation activities is the educational dimension in view of the ultimate goal of promoting the awareness and the enhancement of everyone's human dignity and the common good, according to the Catholic Social Teaching.

AVSI, on behalf also of the 35 various national organizations associated to the AVSI network, would like to offer some remarks and prospective suggestions on the theme of the current Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session drawn from its approach and field involvement in eradicating poverty in all its forms.

We will focus on the issue of human dignity, the necessity for inclusive partnerships and the unique contribution of women.

1. Human Dignity

Eradicating poverty in all its forms clearly presupposes that poverty cannot be simply defined as lack of money or lack of access to financial resources. For instance, a grave form of poverty is the denial of fundamental human rights, which are universal, indivisible and inalienable.

In other words, the person can never be defined by sociological categories such as poverty or other challenging conditions, rather the person should be defined by the yearning, rooted in each human being, for one's fulfilment and the realization of the common good. Development and sustainability are primarily related to the person's innate dignity and freedom.

The respect and promotion of the dignity of each human being is based on the recognition that everyone, wherever and whenever, is born with an innate desire for justice, beauty, happiness and good for oneself and others. This innate desire is what is common to each person on earth. The discovery and recognition of this desire is what moves each individual and unlocks their own potential to look for what can fulfil one's life.

At the origin of each project, AVSI's concern is the recognition, together with the people who would be engaged in or benefit from the project, of their real needs and to help and respond, not by providing a precast solution from the outside, but by working together and interacting with reality to design an intervention consistent with the local context and the available resources. AVSI feels that its contribution is reflected more in the quality of accompaniment of the people involved in an activity than in the technical or financial assistance.

Nowadays, the debate about the external contribution and support and the cost effectiveness of a project is animated. In concrete terms: is the external assistance only necessary to hand out goods or cash, relying entirely on the capacity and the free engagement of each "beneficiary" as the agent of change or is there a need to

accompany and support? We are convinced that the real challenge lies in the way we consider the human being: an individual with his/her ability and potential without any bonds or rather an individual, unique, whose growth and development depends, by nature, on the well-lived relationships with the other.

2. Multi-stakeholder Engagement

Sustainable development touches all aspects of life and at its best requires the joint effort and commitment of several actors, of different nature, in order to make the most of the specific resources and capacity of each single entity towards a shared goal. As particularly stressed since the Rio+20 Conference, multi-stakeholders engagement is key to guarantee continuity in development and economic growth. Multi-stakeholder partnerships involve civil society, grassroots organization, non-profit providers, private and public sectors and emerging new donors, both private and public. The goal is to maximize the creation of shared value between all stakeholders through the delivery of products and services that meet personal and social needs. Each actor involved has different roles and purposes that should be maintained and respected. A long-term perspective and time and energy dedication to align the diverse entities towards the objective is not an option.

We would like to mention two significant projects among our recent multi-stakeholder experience. In Uganda, the projects SKY and AS4Y have both the government of Uganda and of The Netherlands importantly involved, as well as an active participation from the private sector. The projects aim to promote the expansion of the agricultural sector, the backbone of Ugandan economy, through the modernization of infrastructures, the training of qualified operators, and boosting investment in agriculture. The projects provide qualified training for 6,000 youth and reach out to 16,000 farmers in various districts of Uganda. There are several and diverse stakeholders that include farmers, agricultural vocational training schools, private national and international agri-business, governments, CSOs, and of course the youth. For multi-stakeholder partnerships, it is necessary to find a win-win solution for all actors involved. The government, by putting into place policies that encourage and safeguard investment particularly for the private sector, fulfils its crucial role. All of this is in line in fostering the SDG 17 that encourages partnerships to bring together governments, civil society, the private sector, the international cooperation agencies and other actors and mobilize all available resources.

3. Promotion of Women Worth and Potential

Women all over the world should participate fully in the social, cultural and economic life in name of the same dignity of every human being and in order to foster a harmonious world. Women participation starts with the family and continues within the community and in the workplace. Like a musical symphony, women participation in addition to men allows for each person to both bring his/her own peculiarity and yield and enjoy the common richness and good.

Women have the right to live with dignity and freedom, without being intimidated by fear or harassment. Furthermore, equal opportunities are a precondition for development and poverty reduction. It is important to stress that women's empowerment is effective and respectful as women specific initiatives are proposed and substantiated as a step further toward the respect and the value of the woman who enjoys the innate dignity like man.

AVSI has been careful in keeping with this approach. Various projects in different countries show evidence that produces a lot of beneficial and unpredictable outcomes for the women themselves and for their community. From COCAKA (Cooperative for the Promotion of Coffee Kageyo), an AVSI supported project in

Rwanda, a young woman, Daphrosa, started a coffee beans production cooperative (7.5 hectares currently producing five tons of coffee per harvest) that now has 113 members, mainly women. Thanks to this cooperative, a nursery school, including training for childcare, a center for adult literacy, and a club called Urubohero, where women can meet and share their experience, facing problems and finding solutions, was created. Similarly in Peru, Gladys promoted a committee of 15 women to help them add value to locally produced cocoa, through the production of high quality chocolate and other cocoa products reaching the national market. Likewise in Brazil, in a vulnerable peripheral urban area, where AVSI in partnership with the private sector implemented an educational project, Iracema started Cooperárvore, a cooperative that employs 13 women. Since 2004, the income of these women and their family has substantial increased. Lastly within the current multi-year SCORE project (Sustainable Responses for Improving the Lives of Vulnerable Children and their Households) in Uganda, a household-centered economic strengthening project, the Furaha (happiness in Swahili) graduation and resilience model was introduced and successfully attained by 54% of the 28,386 households, most of them women-led, enrolled in the program.

To conclude, let us recognize the strong evidence that only a people and one's dignity centered approach and effort can provide for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

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Statement submitted by Centre européen de recherche et de prospective politique, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09328 (E) 130617 140617

Please recycle

Statement

Although it represents a serious challenge for the international community, the eradication of poverty is one of the Sustainable Development Goals. It requires specific responses that are immediately applicable to particular situations. Several levels of participation and decision-making come into play as the challenge of globalization pushes people towards a renewed focus on community that sometimes causes fractures to emerge instead of maximizing similarities.

The various preparatory meetings for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as well as the Conference itself held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, at which my organization participated as a stakeholder, were an opportune occasion for cross-cutting discussions on how to reduce social inequalities and push back poverty to the greatest possible extent. For example, the Centre européen de recherche et de prospective politique (CEREPPOL) works on the Indian subcontinent to try to address the silent causes of poverty by providing education about democracy and raising awareness of individuality as a source of social mobility and access to medium- and long-term well-being. Our methods of governance are established with the goal of providing sustainable support, in order to ensure that beneficiary populations are always the agents of their own change. Our organization takes concrete action in Europe and on the African continent so as to advance access to decent housing, which is a determining factor in escaping the cycle of "identity" poverty. In the same vein, we believe that housing is an inalienable right. It should promote access to an improved standard of living, sustainable consumption and equitable conditions for development. For those reasons, we have established a private programme in support of populations seeking recognition. Through such tailor-made programmes, the concerned populations develop a practical vision of how to escape poverty. That involves restoring to them, on a daily basis, their tools for reflection and action so that they are able to regain their autonomy and thus become the agents or authors of their own social, economic and psychological recovery.

Given that our development programmes were launched only recently (19 months ago), our qualitative and quantitative evaluation criteria give us actionable data covering just that period. Official data currently show that our front office advice and support programmes have enabled people to make progress towards greater independence. They have been able to improve their autonomy in daily life, which is one of the intended goals. It is expected that the results will be reviewed in 48 months' time, after the initial programmes have been completed.

We remain confident and at the disposal of the international community to share in a "community of practice" with the aim of substantially reducing poverty.

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Statement submitted by Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

The Company of the Daughters of Charity and the Congregation of the Mission consist of approximately 20,000 members worldwide, who focus on service to persons living in poverty. Our experiences make us mindful of phenomena affecting persons throughout the economic spectrum which call for the urgent implementation of social protection in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1.

The World Bank estimates that 700 million, or 9.6 per cent of the world's population, may be living in poverty (on less than $1.90 per day). Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia are particularly hard hit by poverty.

Behind economic indicators and poverty data exist political, social, and cultural obstacles which further leave certain people behind. Such groups, according to the United Nations Human Development Report (2016), include women and girls, indigenous persons, rural dwellers, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and migrants and refugees, among others. (Economic measurements of development and progress do not fully capture their plight. Thus, we encourage the creation of new measuring tools which include other factors such as wellbeing and human rights protection).

A more recent group facing poverty is that of persons losing jobs due to a significant evolution in the work arena. Some say we are facing a "tsunami" of disruption in the labour world as manufacturing jobs evaporate due to automation, artificial intelligence, and robotics. An increase in on-line shopping is costing further jobs in retail.

According to the World Economic Forum (January 2016), The Fourth Industrial Revolution, combined with other socio-economic and demographic changes, will transform labour markets in the next five years, leading to a net loss of over 5 million jobs in 15 major developed and emerging economies. Again, social protection is called for by way of proactive upskilling for contemporary jobs.

Oxfam informs us that eight men's wealth is equivalent to that of 3.6 billion people and that $60 billion annually would end global poverty. Yet poverty is prevalent among us and 1 in 10 people still earns less than $2 a day. These statistics emphasize widening income inequality and highlight the need for social protection.

In light of the above, we call upon United Nations member states to:

- Provide social protection for child and elder care, care for persons with disabilities, old age pensions, and income stability
- Include persons at the grass roots in deciding best forms of social protection to suit their experience
- Increase funding and initiatives which would upskill workers for evolving jobs
- End tax breaks for the extremely wealthy
- More aggressively combat illicit financial flows
- Encourage corporations to promote social impact projects
- Include factors related to social well-being and human rights in determining national degrees of development and progress

If banks can be bailed out and 1.5 trillion spent on arms, then monies must be found to truly put people first.

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Statement submitted by Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09337 (E) 130617

Please recycle

Statement

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, in special consultative status since 1996, welcomes this opportunity to address the high level segment of the Economic and Social Council on 'Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges.' The 2030 Agenda urges that it is possible to end poverty in our lifetime. Our organization is dedicated to this goal in its ministries in 74 countries throughout the world. We applaud the United Nations in its efforts to continuously bring forward the issue of poverty eradication on behalf of the people furthest behind.

The Human Development Report of 2016 highlights some aspects that we consider key to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. A phrase that echoes our vision and mission is that 'human development focuses on richness of human lives rather than on the richness of economies.'

Structural and systemic issues are the main challenges to the wellbeing of people and the planet. These are evident today with growing inequality within and among countries, the amassing of profit for personal and corporate gain to the detriment of human rights and environmental protection, growing fears with regard to world peace, the movement of large numbers of peoples in the face of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crisis, and the growing experience of exclusion and uncertainty of those who cross borders.

Coupled with the structural and systemic issues are mindsets that drive those in authority to use and abuse their power to maintain the status quo. These mindsets do not seek to leave no one behind, but rather to exploit, plunder, destroy, displace and kill people and the planet.

We as an organization work in local communities with people who experience multidimensional poverty — 'lingering deprivations', gender inequality and effects of climate change. Participatory exercises reveal that people living in poverty describe ill-being to include poor health, nutrition, lack of adequate sanitation and clean water, social exclusion, low education, bad housing conditions, violence, shame, disempowerment and much more. These are the very issues that the 2030 Agenda seeks to transform.

We urge the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Segment to encourage Member States:

- to engage in processes whereby people are actors, at the center of their own development
- to open spaces for respectful dialogue on 'controversial issues', discriminatory laws, and exclusionary social norms
- to encourage new thinking that promotes transformation at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure a sustainable future for all
- to use the data revolution and emerging technologies to advance people's well being

Some immediate applications:

- Implement a robust human rights-based, gender and age-responsive policy approach
- Reframe macroeconomic systems to tackle growing inequalities, and allocate resources to address basic deprivations including through implementation of national floors of social protection [International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendation 202]

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Statement submitted by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09340 (E) 080617

Please recycle

Statement

"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Convention of Independent Financial Advisors (CIFA), a non-profit Swiss foundation created in 2001 at the initiative of a group of financial advisors, aims to protect the consumer/investor's rights and privacy and defend the interests of independent financial advisors at national and international level. It has been reclassified to General Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2015.

At CIFA, we are committed to achieving the goals of the United Nations, promoting global peace, security and prosperity, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, including: "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges".

The deliberations of CIFA consecutive Forums have outlined the urgency for governments and civil society to reform the current financial system before it leads to a worldwide economic collapse and another recession. Participants recognized that if no concrete solutions were applied soon, it would increase tensions between the regions of the world, and create a context propitious to more conflicts.

Over the past year, CIFA improved cooperation amongst nations and inspired financial and economic leaders and practitioners in searching for innovative solutions to current economic and financial challenges. Since its accreditation by the ECOSOC, all CIFA's annual reports and proposals underlined the importance to involve more closely the private sector in the implementation of MDGs and of the United Nations Development Agenda. As an example, the 10 December 2013 meeting between CIFA and the Forum of Small States (FOSS) exchanged views on closer private sector partnerships, including investor-friendly policies, which would help implement the future SDGs and 2030 Agenda. This new approach was translated in SDG#17 and it also became part of the 2030 Agenda. The 21 October 2015 General Assembly resolution (A/RES/70/1) acknowledged such partnership role for the private sector and for civil society organizations in the SDG implementation (paragraph 41), which was again reiterated in the recent 2016 ECOSOC resolution of its High-level Segment (E/HLS/2016/1 para 15). The August 2015 FFD conclusions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, also recognized as a priority the need for a worldwide consensus on taxation, and the importance of involving the private sector and CSOs in Agenda 2030.

Through CIFA's Forums, its "White Book" research, projects, and other activities we make substantive and sustained contributions to achieving the objectives and 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. CIFA is committed to achieving the SDG's of the United Nations, promoting global peace, security and creation of wealth, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, including "Eradication of extreme poverty", "Ensuring Environmental Sustainability," and "look at opportunities and challenges".

CIFA's work "is broadly representative of major segments of society in a large number of countries in different regions of the world". CIFA with its core principles of defending the investor's rights is the only NGO addressing poverty and all the segments of the economy, be it developed, in development or not developed, in a constructive, wealth creating sustainable approach.

To protect the fundamental rights of citizens/investor worldwide, to put finance back at the service of the general investor or savers, and not only in favor of a few selected speculators, CIFA, has every year convened a Forum, in association with more than 70 National Associations and International Federations representing approximately 1.2 million Financial Intermediaries across the world. In order to implement the Goal 17 of the United Nations Agenda, CIFA marshals the support and collaboration from numerous other professional federations and associations.

CIFA is proud to work closely in cooperation with the Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations 66 and 67 General Assembly Presidency, the Department of Public Information (DPI), the United Nations Global Compact Office, the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Summit on Information Society. As a result, CIFA has substantially expanded its projects and programs, which in turn has increased its scope and influence. Today, more than ever, CIFA has become a pioneer and leader in the areas of reforming the world economic and financial systems.

CIFA understands that the SDGs can only be achieved if there is sufficient wealth creation to finance them. CIFA is the defender of the idea to create an appropriate economic environment that will encourage such new wealth creation. CIFA is also aware that the world economic and financial situation has drastically changed since the creation of the SDGs and it perceives some significant changes required in addressing related challenges and in the approach to achieve them.

In particular, there is an urgency to expand opportunities and to create a climate favourable to new investments and targeting job creation for future generations. For this purpose, CIFA participants have proposed various tools and approaches to improve the controls and monitoring of the world financial markets, in order to avoid abuses, unfair losses for investors, corruptions and disruptions in the global markets.

CIFA supports the Addis FFD consensus on taxation if it can translate in a more investor-friendly context worldwide, instead of the current fiscal excesses observed recently, where some States are proposing an ever higher tax burden for its citizens, while other States are lowering their corporate taxes to unseen levels in decades. These cross-currents lead to more confusion and insecurity for investors worldwide. In considering the 2030 United Nations Agenda, it is necessary to ensure more harmony and stability in our new economic order, as a basic step in the implementation and promotion of sustainable development.

CIFA actively defends the Charter of Investors Rights which advocates the freedom and security for investors. That way, private investors can become the motor supporting job creation and creativity in a free entrepreneurial environment. To bring back a positive outlook for the young generation they need to be able to use and develop, with a maximum of freedom, their creativity and education. Without discouraging administrative restraints or regulations, young people must be given the tools, skills and readiness to take risk to promote new ideas, innovation and job creation.

Furthermore, CIFA promotes the idea that the Forum of Small States (FOSS), developing, landlocked countries, and small islands need excellence in financial advice as a condition for protection of consumers. This will, in turn, help emerging economies to adopt standards of accountability, transparency, and integrity. That way, they can become valid partners in global financial market.

CIFA also considers the inter linkages of all the SDG's 17 Goals in its annual work plan, and puts forward the following recommendations:

1. Calls for an open, rule-based trading and financial system, more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction, and relief for the debt problems of developing countries. The political, fiscal and economic environment must become and remain investor-friendly.

2. Draws attention to the problems of the least developed countries and of landlocked countries and small islands as well as developing states, which have greater difficulty competing in the global economy.

3. Calls for cooperation with the private sector to address the youth unemployment, ensure access to affordable, essential drugs, and make available the benefits of new technology.

Over the past year, CIFA improved cooperation amongst nations and inspired financial and economic leaders and practitioners in expanding opportunities and searching for innovative solutions to current economic and financial challenges.

In the context of promoting Sustainable Development, CIFA encourages the creation of an appropriate economic framework, where the SDGs can be more efficiently achieved. When a positive environment for wealth creation is in place, it fosters more inclusive economic growth.

To ensure worldwide Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions we need more financial, fiscal, economic and political stability as well as more entrepreneurial freedom. Instead of worldwide prosperity, overregulation and over-taxation are now impeding creativity and wealth creation by promoting rent extraction in favor of a very few.

In this regard, we share an inclusive economic growth approach where development is based on increasing the pace of new job creation, and not substituting new job creation by more social benefits. CIFA encourages investors to target sectors, which are more prone to create new productive employment opportunities which, in return, will generate more added-value and community enrichment.

CIFA welcomes the 2017 theme ECOSOC and the fact that ECOSOC has "recognized the importance of a more representative civil society participation in its policy decision-making and operational fora". CIFA will certainly heed ECOSOC's call and accept to further contribute to the definition of new global partnership in order to help achieve the 2030 development Agenda.

Last October in New York City, United States of America, CIFA had the privilege to contribute with the Group of 77 Workshop's on: "Strategies for advancing work on a new debt workout mechanism building on the UNGA process". This Workshop gave us an opportunity to establish the parameters for a closer partnership on the new SDGs and on the 2030 Agenda. CIFA will continue these discussions in its own Annual Forum Congress in Monaco, on 30-31 May and 1st June 2017 under the theme: "Outsiders in Power: Will they tear the existing model? What new model do they propose?" which aims to respond to the current ECOSOC Theme.

In summary

The following objectives for a global system of financial intermediation would seem advisable in order "to eradicate poverty in all its form and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges":

1. Finance must support the real economy.

2. Profits from finance must reflect real contribution to growth and wealth creation.

3. The financial industry could better focus its talents if the systemic aspect of the present structures would be eliminated.

4. Governments have a responsibility to structure financial markets so as to eliminate rent extraction from the system.

To ensure worldwide prosperity, we need more financial, economic and political stability as well as more entrepreneurial freedom. Instead of worldwide prosperity, overregulation and over taxation has compromised creativity and wealth creation by promoting rent extraction in favour of a very few. It should be the business of the United Nations, the international community and private organizations like CIFA to seriously address this critical challenge of ensuring that the citizens of our respective countries can continue to eradicate poverty through wealth creation to enjoy the benefits of capitalism and not just its costs.

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Statement submitted by International Alliance for Responsible Drinking, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

The International Alliance for Responsible Drinking (IARD) is a not-for-profit organization supported by international beer, wine and spirits producers dedicated to addressing the issue of harmful drinking, a contributing factor for three major non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and acute injuries.

As an organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2011, IARD supports the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol, as well as global targets set by the world's governments around reducing harmful drinking in the United Nations Action Plan on NCDs. It also supports the identification of appropriate indicators for monitoring progress within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Member States have set ambitious goals to address health within the SDG framework. The inclusion of a reduction in harmful drinking as a global target (3.5) is an appropriate one; because of its relationship with chronic disease and acute harm, as well as its relationship with social, demographic, and economic factors, harmful drinking is a key health concern, but also a preventable one.

As the Economic and Social Council reviews the SDGs, including Goal 3, during the high-level political forum on sustainable development, it is appropriate to signal that the selection of appropriate indicators for measuring progress towards the reduction of harmful drinking, indicator 3.5.2, will be key in determining success and ought to be consistent with the Global Monitoring Framework in WHO's Global Action Plan on NCDs 2013-2020.

The current indicators based simply on coverage of interventions, or on alcohol per capita (APC), are inadequate to capture variations in drinking patterns that constitute harmful drinking. They are also inadequate for identifying and addressing those groups within the general population most at risk for harm, including young people, women, socially excluded groups, and those at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale.

For consistency with the Global Monitoring Framework in WHO's Global Action Plan on NCDs, two additional elements ought to be considered for the SDG indicator 3.5.2. In addition to APC, and to cover missing aspects of the target, the indicator ought to include prevalence of both underage drinking and heavy episodic drinking (HED), which is linked with acute outcomes (accidents and injuries).

The ability to monitor changes in these indicators can assist governments to identify appropriate solutions and implement prevention measures to safeguard the health of future generations. An emphasis on risk and harm allows for tailored approaches that include all-of-society engagement, rather than sole reliance on government intervention. Targeted approaches can also help to focus resources and share the burden of engagement and cost among all relevant stakeholders. They include educational efforts and prevention strategies aimed at those at greatest risk for harm.

Aligning targets and indicators in the SDG plan with existing initiatives will help to streamline approaches, allow for consistency and cross-measurement, and ensure synergy among these various global efforts to improve health worldwide.

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Statement submitted by International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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17-09355 (E) 090617

Please recycle

Statement

Poverty may be understood as a condition in which a person or community is lacking the basic need for minimum standard of well-being particularly as a result of persistent lack of income. A person can be pushed into that state of poverty by external circumstances. In that context a person is an innocent victim of the situation. Poverty is a pronounced deprivation in well-being and has many manifestations which include hunger, malnutrition, and inadequate access to education, unhealthy living conditions, inadequate physical security, and lack of participation in social activities. A person who has to struggle all the time for physical survival cannot invest any additional time to achieve higher qualities of life. Poverty then becomes a function of diminished capability of people to live the kinds of life they aspire for.

The economic aspect of poverty focuses on material needs.

It is often argued that world has enough resources to lift all women and men up from extreme poverty. Yet, extreme poverty persists. One often quoted explanation is that there is no agreed upon mechanism to distribute resources to the deserving needy. Another cause of poverty is forced migration. Due to sudden political change in situations rich and well placed people all on a sudden become poor. In that context poverty becomes a function of politics and its removal must be addressed politically.

Luckily, there is awareness in a section of people that the eradication of poverty is beneficial for all. Otherwise, poverty like a contagious disease will also bring the rest of the people down.

In the quest for finding a way to improve the quality of life for all, world leaders came out with a plan called Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to reduce poverty and improve the quality of lives with a deadline of 2015. Since the deadline is over it is time to reflect upon the achievements.

True, significant progress has been made to reduce poverty, more poor children are getting opportunities to go to schools, and remarkable gains have been made to fight against malaria, polio and tuberculosis. More people have now an access to drinking water and the child mortality has been reduced. While the above statistics may be encouraging it is time to think of the people who are outside the statistics. All people outside the statics also need food, shelter, security, health care education and decent livelihood.

Shocking, as it may sound, based on the finding of Walk Free Foundation, slavery is no longer a bygone issue. More than 45 million people around the world are enslaved and they earn 45 billion dollars for their masters. Economic slavery is slowly engulfing the society. According to recent Oxfam Report 1% now own more than the wealth of the rest 99% of the population and control the economic destiny of the rest of the world. Social injustice, slavery, environmental destruction, wars, poverty, economic disasters are all caused by human beings. So, they can also be prevented by the efforts of human beings.

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Statement submitted by International Shinto Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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17-09357 (E) 120617

Please recycle

Statement

A Japanese NGO's Attempt — Poverty Support for Real Self-Reliance

This is a small scale support, but remarkable endeavor for poverty eradication made by a Japanese NGO, the field of activity of which is disaster recovery assistance. Disaster usually directly leads to poverty and the disaster-stricken area mostly equals to poor area in developing countries. This NGO has only two full-time staff. Their operational funds are mostly donated by citizens, so not abundant. Nevertheless, it has developed a variety of supports in the 37 areas worldwide, resulting in impressive recovery and showing amazing cost performances. They have focused on long-term recovery assistance for whoever was left behind in large-scale assistance, and remain as long as possible in the disaster-stricken region even after other NGOs went back to their countries. The NGO aims to bring out the latent abilities of the local community and victims through long-term elaborated and thoughtful relationships, leading to the improvement of the conditions better than that before the disaster.

A variety of activities have been carried out for poverty eradication, including cash distribution with no duty of repayment, free school lunch, or employment in the public projects. Such system may work well when there are sufficient funds and materials, but this outside-adding type of support would not necessarily lead to their sustainable independence and getting out of poverty.

In the April 2015 Nepal Earthquake, the NGO supported depopulated Gudel Village located in the isolated mountainous region. Since the earthquake took place, no assistance had been offered and no media had reported this village, which means the village had been completely left behind and forgotten. The NGO launched a common-house reconstruction project in the village. The NGO representative called in local carpenters and arranged earthquake-strengthening skills learning workshops by an expert professor for building the house. He said, "It may be easier and quicker to rebuild if we bring an outside carpenter with earthquake-resistant skills, but it would not strengthen the local power". The NGO representative hoped the villagers would make the most of the devastated situation for their better prosperity of the future, rather than just remedying the current situation.

Initially, the carpenters were working, passively following the proposed building design. The NGO representative then requested them to make all their own possible efforts through try and error to maximize the earthquake resistance.

The NGO representative kept listening to the voices of the villagers and asking them, "What are the merits and the pride of this village?" to remind them of their love for their homeland and to spontaneously commit for its reconstruction. Then, one of the local carpenters, who was born in the village but had been fled to Kathmandu for better job and life, decided to return to the village and devote himself to the renaissance of his homeland. Thus, the village started recovering the self-reliant power for reconstruction. We think such self-reliant spirit to improve the situation would be the most crucial factor for sustainably getting out of poverty.

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Statement submitted by IOGT International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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17-09360 (E) 080617

Please recycle

Statement

IOGT International thanks the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the opportunity to provide a written statement for the 2017 High-Level Segment.

Drawing on 165 years of experience promoting Human Rights, democracy and development in communities worldwide and representing 140 member organizations from 57 countries, IOGT International is the premier global network for community-based interventions and evidence-based policies to prevent and reduce harm caused by alcohol and other drugs.

We are committed to creating environments in which everyone is empowered to live up to their fullest potential and our work seeks to promote human and planetary health along with active citizenship.

The 2030 Agenda is a remarkable achievement. But envisioning its realization through the lens of the most deprived, marginalized and vulnerable populations on our planet, we clearly see massive obstacles for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

The evidence is unmistakable: Harmful use of alcohol is a cross-cutting obstacle for achieving the SDGs, as it adversely impacts 12 out of 17 goals.

For instance: Pervasive alcohol harm causes poverty, ill-health and premature deaths, erodes economic productivity, threatens women's empowerment and gender equality, puts the development of our children and youth into peril, contributes to unsafe public spaces and jeopardizes water and food security.

- Alcohol kills 3.3 million people worldwide every year. This represents 5.9% of all deaths.
- Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20 to 39 years approximately 25% of total deaths are alcohol-attributable.
- Alcohol is the leading risk factor for death and disability among people aged 15 to 49 years worldwide. This is the age range in which people are typically at their most productive economically.
- There's a causal relationship between alcohol and mental health disorders, infectious diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases like cancer and heart disease.

In light of this reality and in the context of the 2017 theme of the Economic and Social's Council High-Level Segment, IOGT International calls on governments and the United Nations system to take bold steps in tackling the adverse role of alcohol as a crosscutting impediment for 12 of 17 SDGs. Simply put: alcohol harm is a Human Rights and sustainable development issue. Harmful use of alcohol is a threat to our shared goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms.

Evidence-based, high-impact and cost-effective policy measures do exist that prevent and reduce alcohol harm and its burden on sustainable human development.

The so-called Three Best Buys of alcohol policy as described by World Bank, World Health Organization and World Economic Forum (among others), can help foster transformative change in our efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

Alcohol policy measures such as alcohol taxation, advertising bans and availability regulations should play a solid role in the global, regional, national and local efforts to achieve the SDGs.

We have the evidence. We have the policy tools. Now we need political will and leadership to take bold action for the benefit of the most deprived and vulnerable.

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Statement submitted by Jeunesse horizon, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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17-09362 (E) 160617 160617

Please recycle

Statement

In its Human Development Report 1998, which referred to poverty in Cameroon, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) gave its view of poverty as a complex phenomenon generally characterized by a lack of the resources, choices and opportunities that make decent living conditions possible. For developing countries, and particularly for Cameroon, it remains a scourge on society. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions must be a priority for all stakeholders in society and the State.

The direct cause of poverty in Cameroon is unemployment, which is, in turn, a result of:

- An education system that emphasizes qualifications at the expense of professional skills and employment
- Bad governance, manifested in the waste of available human resources and of natural and mineral resources that are sold off cheaply
- A lack of structures to provide funding for projects, and hence a strong emphasis on the informal sector
- The rural exodus, whereby young people move from the villages to the cities in search of what they imagine will be a better situation, leaving usable lands behind.

The consequences of poverty are juvenile delinquency, drug use, prostitution, health problems, high illiteracy rates, dependence on others, and so on.

Sustainable development, which is defined as a new approach for the common good aimed at ensuring the durability of our societies, our ecosystem and our economy, is a unique opportunity to rethink the way we do things. Defined as such, sustainable development is a catalyst for innovation that must be economically efficient, socially equitable and environmentally sound.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals laid out by the United Nations in 2015 will be a real solution with regard to the reduction or eradication of poverty in Africa and in Cameroon if every stakeholder plays its role while respecting the following four basic principles:

- Solidarity among peoples, generations and members of society. Today we live in such a selfish world that it is important to cultivate solidarity with one another.
- The exercise of caution when taking decisions, so as not to cause harm to others when it is known that there are risks at all levels of implementation.
- The participation of all, regardless of social status, in order to ensure the success of projects undertaken.
- The responsibility of all — policymakers, businesspeople and farmers alike. Each individual must be responsible for his or her own actions and decisions.

At Jeunesse Horizon, we believe that this endeavour concerns everyone, and that everyone must reflect and take action for change. We therefore call on parents, teachers and State officials, regardless of their level of responsibility, and also associations, businesses, farmers and young people, to put respect for human value and improved well-being at the centre of their considerations.

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Statement submitted by La manif pour tous, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

A new form of exploitation of women has been gaining ground in recent years: surrogacy, a practice that must be condemned and fought in order to achieve target 5.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thousands of women are being used for reproductive purposes, considered nothing but a uterus and exploited as incubators while the international community sits idly by.

In fact, this practice is nothing less than exploitation as defined under article 4 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

As a form of exploitation it is moreover highly lucrative, being a money-spinner for all stakeholders in this new industry: laboratories, biologists, doctors, lawyers, salespersons, financiers and insurance companies. The surrogate mother, meanwhile, earns a paltry sum, if she is not doubly victimized because she is but a volunteer while all other parties in so-called "altruistic" agreements make huge profits.

The global surrogacy market is currently estimated to be worth at least $4 billion.

Surrogate motherhood is a new form of violence against women, constituting a major invasion of both their being and their intimate life during what is an intensely physical and psychological experience.

This sexual and reproductive exploitation represents a clear form of slavery, which article 1 of the 1926 Slavery Convention defines as "the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised".

Any individual or organization exploiting a woman in this manner is exercising ownership by usurping her reproductive capacity. They intentionally deprive her of the full exercise of her reproductive rights so that others can profit.

All surrogate mothers are victims, regardless of the context. No little girl grows up with dreams of allowing her body to be used by others or of giving away or selling her children.

Furthermore, it is clear that the vast majority of surrogate mothers are poor, educationally deprived and often mentally vulnerable; it is precisely that vulnerability that opens them up to exploitation.

Poverty can never justify the exploitation of women.

To meet target 1 of the 2030 Agenda, it is essential to combat violence against women. As concluded at the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the empowerment of women and their full access to the workforce are critical factors in the eradication of poverty; controlling their reproductive freedom is not.

Surrogacy is either tolerated or legalized in many countries. The international community must assume its responsibilities and capitalize on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to combat this form of violence against women.

Should we legalize the exploitation of women? Should we provide a legal framework for slavery? No; we must be resolute in our opposition and we count on all Member States to continue the fight to protect women from every single form of exploitation.

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Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

We, from the Legião da Boa Vontade/Legion of Good Will, submit our recommendations to the theme of the 2017 session of the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council — "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges." These proposals are based on the extensive work we have undertaken in the areas of education and social assistance for 67 years by means of a network that operates 94 units in seven countries. In 2016 alone, we provided almost 15 million acts of service to benefit people living in poverty in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States of America, and Uruguay.

Our emphasis is on the economic empowerment of future generations. The world of work is and will be even more impacted by globalization, new demographic trends, and convergence of digital, physical, and biological technology. Economists have called the sum of these changes the Fourth Industrial Revolution. All these factors are affecting human relationships on various levels. Careers and jobs will be created, but many will disappear or evolve to become something very different.

We believe that education plays a prominent role in this new scenario. That is why the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (for those who are 11 and over) provide our educators with the tools needed to empower students in such a way that they can face the challenging reality of this century. These pedagogies comprise the educational proposal devised by educator José de Paiva Netto, President of the organization.

This proposal suggests that the complete development of individuals should combine "Brain and Heart," in other words, guarantee that learning not only considers reasoning, but also strengthens feelings and emotions of the students, by integrating cognitive aspects and the values of Ecumenical Spirituality. The MAPREI (Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research), our educational methodology, enables students to be the main protagonists in the learning process. This method takes into account the challenges of the job market, which demands professionals who are multi-skilled, enterprising, and cooperative.

Another topic worked on by the organization's educators is the resilience capacity of the students, which is essential in an increasingly competitive society. To deal with pressure, young people need to understand their emotions, control their reaction to each one of them, and their impact on the people they live and interact with personally and professionally. That is why resilience is a topic that is commonly discussed in several subjects in the school syllabus or dealt with as a central topic in Ecumenical Culture and Living Together classes, which were specially created by our educational network. Our schools and social service centers develop programs and activities that simulate challenging situations of daily life in order to stimulate the search for solutions to them. This kind of approach, which is mediated by the teachers, has provided young people with greater confidence in their choices.

The book É Urgente Reeducar! [It is Urgent to Re-educate!] (2010), written by José de Paiva Netto, contains the principles of our educational proposal. Among them, we highlight one he presented in 1999, during an impromptu speech to the organization's educators: "The Spirit has a predominant place in our everyday actions. However, in the preparation of youths and adults for their subsistence in this material world of technologies never seen before — and, paradoxically, in these days, so unstable for those who work hard for their own future — we must take into

the highest account that students must be efficiently qualified for the strict demands of the current competitive job market. Moreover: prepare them in such a way that they do not pursue a path where the profession for which they have been prepared for no longer exists at the end of the course. Therefore, it is essential that they receive an effective education in order to be bold and enterprising, so that they can overcome the supervenient facts that, at any moment, may challenge society, frightening multitudes. For argumentative purposes, bold plans will be of no avail if there is no one who has been properly prepared to develop them."

Job Lab

Most of our students come from low-income homes, whose family members have little schooling and live in a socially vulnerable situation. These factors make it difficult and even hinder the parents and legal guardians of the students from offering them greater support when making their academic choice. Therefore, the school presents to them different technical schools and colleges. They are also encouraged to apply for several colleges, thus increasing the range of opportunities open to them for continuing with their studies and thus having more job opportunities.

High school students in the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo, Brazil responded to a survey on the skills they have developed that meet the needs of the trends of the future of work. We present below the perception of the students aged between 16 and 19, with regard to how our educational proposal helped them continue with their studies and find a career:

- 93% affirmed that their career choice has to have a meaning, in other words, in addition to being able to provide for themselves, they want to help improve the quality of life of other people through their work.
- 100% stated that the classroom debates prepared them for dealing better with the relevant topics of the present day, among which looking after the environment, the future of work, the search for Peace, and gender equality.
- 79% said they already know which career they will pursue (a higher percentage than that indicated in similar surveys with students from public and private schools in Brazil).

Here are some of our actions that facilitate access to jobs of the future that require creativity and innovation, or that are linked to the environmental area, to quality of life, or to sustainability:

- Professional/vocational guidance: with the use of neurolinguistics, the aim is to help in the search for self-knowledge and in awakening students' potential.
- Visits to universities: the young people are given a guided tour around colleges and talk to other students and professors of the courses they are interested in.
- *Job fair*: the school welcomes universities and university preparatory schools.
- Workshops and talks given by professionals who perform at a high level.
- Entrepreneurship and sustainability: debates with children and teenagers on relevant topics, such as aging of population and its social and economic implications. The debates foster youth leadership based on ethics and citizenship, and encourage transforming attitudes.
- English immersion experience: being fluent in this language is an important requirement in looking for a job position.
- Preparing for the university entrance exams and for the National High School Exam.

- University entrance exams with the family, counting on the participation of someone who is responsible for the student.
- Reading the classics of Brazilian and Portuguese literature.
- Simulation exercises of various selection processes.
- Special training for better posture: prepares the students for the long hours of these exams.
- Motivational workshops.

Education against inequality

The research carried out by the former student of Legion of Good Will and educator Karen Reis Ribeiro, in her second undergraduate course, was one of the works presented at the 30th World Congress of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP), held in Dublin, Ireland, in August 2016. The research was undertaken in the Good Will Educational Complex for her degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the School of Medical Sciences of the Santa Casa in São Paulo, entitled "Identification of communication disorders in elementary school students."

The findings surprised the examining committee because, despite the difficult reality of most of the students, the school had communication disorder indices that were similar to those found in populations in developed countries. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), communication disorder is an impairment in the ability to receive, send, process, and comprehend concepts or verbal, nonverbal, and graphic symbol systems. Individuals may demonstrate one or any combination of them.

The results suggest that the educational proposal of the Legion of Good Will directly contributes to the students' good performance. For Dr. Noemi Takiuchi, Adjunct Professor at the Speech-Language Pathology program at the School of Medical Sciences of the Santa Casa in São Paulo and Karen's final paper supervisor, this research is singular. "When we reviewed the [academic] literature, we saw that when children come from an underprivileged social background, this has an enormous impact on their language and reading development. This was the opposite of what we found in the Legion of Good Will. There we saw children with few resources but good performances. ... In the Organization we have the ideal scenario for studying both the risk factors and the protective factors. We found several aspects that are considered in the LGW's proposal that act as protective factors. So some of the children who might otherwise develop some type of difficulty [have the possibility of not developing them] because they're exposed to the Organization's unique teaching and reading methods, as well as [being able to count on] the family working with the children, participating a lot in the activities, and even having access to special activities, as for example music, computer classes, physical education, and good food, [because] all this works as a protective factor," she affirms.

The good practices described in this statement, based on spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values, empower children, adolescents, young people, adults, and the elderly, encouraging them to help build a truly fair and solidary society, and prove the concepts defended by the organization's president since 1986: "Nothing is better than believing and investing in the divine potential of human beings. When reason is united with the heart (sentiment), fraternal solutions provide life with the longed-for happiness, which can only be true when there is both material and spiritual food on everyone's plates. We never get tired of stating: we were born on Earth to live in society, a Solidary, Altruistic, and Ecumenical Society; therefore, one that is

sustainable. ... The human being, with his/her Eternal Spirit, is the center of the Economy, the generator of all progress. Without him/her, there is neither work nor capital. We need to finally move further ahead and say that the Eternal Spirit that lives in our human body really is the measure of everything, because it is a Heavenly Citizen.

"The wealth of a country lies in the hearts of its people. Nevertheless, entire nations still suffer misery. It should be remembered that empty stomachs and frustrated Spirits are generally unwilling to listen."

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Statement submitted by Make Mothers Matter, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

Early Parenting and Early Child Care and Education to break the inter-generational dimension of poverty

As the world moves beyond 2015, and towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, what has become increasingly clear is the importance of early child development to the long-term success of families, communities, countries and a peaceful and sustainable world.

Joan Lombardi, Senior Advisor, Bernard van Leer Foundation, Early Childhood Matters

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank have long highlighted the central role of Education and Early Childhood Development across all United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hunger, malnutrition and ill health, often tied to poverty, unfortunately obstruct education, which is key to the eradication of poverty. So, this on-going spiral in turn perpetuates more poverty.

A solution to this conundrum requires a trans-generational perspective on poverty, which looks at the cause and effect chain across generations, and examines how interventions in one generation can avoid harm being perpetuated in future generations. And nowhere is the evidence more conclusive than interventions providing support and education for mothers, especially during pregnancy and throughout their children's early years.

The Scientific case for Maternal Health and Early Childhood Education and Care

Neurosciences have recently confirmed that a baby's brain development is shaped by their earliest experiences, including during pregnancy. In particular, a baby's exposure to stress from any cause within the family, such as parental mental illness, mistreatment, domestic violence, or simply neglect or poverty-related stress, can significantly affect their brain development. On the other hand, loving relationships and care, nurture and early stimulation support a healthy brain development and increase the chances that the child will develop harmoniously and achieve their full potential later in life.

In other words, early parenting and early child care and education can have a lifelong impact on a child's mental and emotional health and affect their physical, emotional, social and intellectual development — starting with their readiness for pre-school. Evidence in developed countries shows that a child who is not ready for pre-school education is less likely to succeed later in primary and secondary education.

If the importance of a healthy lifestyle, good nutrition and health during pregnancy and early childhood is well recognized, the potential impact of a mother's mental and emotional health on her children's future outcome is not yet fully acknowledged and integrated enough into policy making.

The Social and Economic cases for Maternal Health and Early Childhood Education and Care

Further, the benefits of early childhood care and education extend to society as a whole. Such "positive externalities", include reductions in crime, and lower expenditures on health care and on remedial education. A number of economic studies have shown that investing in early parenting and early childhood care and

education is 5-6 times more effective than intervening to solve problems later in life. (1)

In October 2016, The Lancet launched a new Early Childhood Development Series that highlights the high cost of inaction and the need to support families to provide nurturing care from the very start of a child's life. "The burden and cost of inaction (in the area of maternal physical and mental health during pregnancy, and early childhood care) is high. A staggering 43% of children under five years of age — an estimated 250 million — living in low- and middle-income countries are at risk of suboptimal development due to poverty and stunting. The burden is currently underestimated because risks to health and wellbeing go beyond these two factors." (2)

And long-term outcomes go well beyond the health of mothers and children today. Investing in maternal health and early childhood development and targeting the most disadvantaged families could have an impact on the future prosperity and stability of a country. It could potentially help break the inter-generational cycle of poverty, foster well-functioning families, and ultimately bring about fairer and more peaceful communities and societies.

Early Parenting matters and mothers' empowerment is key

Early parenting is key since parents, both mothers and fathers, or caregivers, provide the immediate physical, emotional and cognitive environment that will be the foundation for a child's development.

Moreover, mothers' education and empowerment matters: the 2007 UNICEF "State of the World's Children" Report notes that "gender equality produces a 'double dividend': It benefits both women and children. Healthy, educated and empowered women have healthy, educated and confident daughters and sons". The World Bank also found that women reinvest an average of 90% of their income in their families, vs. 30-40% for men: mothers are more likely to use their economic resources on food, education and health care for their children, thus creating a path out of poverty.

Therefore, Make Mothers Matter calls on all governments to:

1. Recognize the importance of these critical early years for child development, especially between conception and age 3, and make it an investment priority and a key long-term strategy for the eradication of poverty

2. Develop national cross-sectorial policies for educating and supporting mothers and fathers in their caring roles, especially during pregnancy and these early years, to ensure that babies benefit from protective, loving, nurturing and stimulating environments and relationships.

3. Recognize that the unpaid work of caring for a newborn baby or a very young child is essential but also time consuming, and address the resulting time poverty that limits many mothers engagement in income generating activities — notably through the development of targeted public infrastructure and services, but also through cash transfer programs.

Early Childhood Care and Education — staring during pregnancy — and empowering mothers and other caregivers in the essential role of upbringing children is the best investment a country can make. Not only it is a matter of child rights, but it will be key to the realization Goal 1 — Eradicating Poverty, and more generally the 2030 Development Agenda.

Notes:

(1) For example:

- Healthy Pregnancy and Healthy Children: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers — The Business Case for Promoting Healthy Pregnancy — AOL's WellBaby Program, USA has shown that preconception care can save as much as $5.19 for every $1 invested
- The Costs of Perinatal Mental Health Problems report — London School of Economics, 2014 — estimates that the costs to the public sector of perinatal mental health problems in the UK is about £8.1 billion/year, 72% of which relates to the child, and that it is 5 times the cost of improving services.

(2) Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale, The Lancet, October 2016

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Please recycle

Statement

Early Parenting and Early Child Care and Education to break the inter-generational dimension of poverty

While focusing on the specific goals is imperative to ensuring implementation, Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) advocates for a comprehensive approach to development, that incorporates the interlinkages between the various Sustainable Development Goals. As the international community considers expanding on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world," it is important for all stakeholders to draw attention to two specific aspects of this agenda: first is to recognize the symbiotic relationship between eradicating poverty and the need for conflict resolution capacity building; and second is to recognize the unique role that women can play in boosting attainment of the specific goals.

First, to eradicate poverty sustainably, it is crucial to pay attention to the vital role that conflict resolution mechanisms play in building socially inclusive communities. This is only possible when all groups are heard and represented through socially inclusive forums, whose impact can be enhanced by effective conflict resolution capacity building. In this journey towards actualizing the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential that both peace and development are invested in side by side. Conflicting interests and inequities of power and resources must be skilfully navigated in any society in order to move towards sustainably prosperous social and economic systems. Thus, building conflict resolution capacity at all levels, from community to global, plays an important role in addressing all points of the agenda (including Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17) in a way which includes multiple voices and points of view. The work by MBBI's multidisciplinary teams found that jointly designing and implementing projects with local partners increased communities' abilities to heal from severe conflict, reconcile relationships, eradicate poverty, and sustainably evolve into a stable, resilient, and economically viable state.

Secondly, MBBI calls attention to the particular contribution that women's empowerment has to the ability to sustain socially inclusive development. MBBI is encouraged by Sustainable Development Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," and the prioritization of women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. Capacity building and women's empowerment promote prosperity and a more peace-able world. As it was agreed in the Sustainable Development Goals, "[w]e must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support post-conflict countries, including through ensuring that women have a role in peace-building and state-building". It has long been recognized that women's contributions are critical to these efforts, perhaps most notably captured in United Nations' Security Council resolution 1325 and General Assembly resolution 65/283. Enhancing the participation of women in conflict resolution and prevention roles will help achieve the United Nations' desire of levelling the playing field and will increase the likelihood of ensuring that the 2030 goals are met.

MBBI fully supports the advancement of conflict resolution capacity building in communities, corporations and governments to facilitate the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is uniquely positioned to provide practical support to help signatories create sustainable change and initiate programs that will facilitate this capacity building.

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Statement submitted by NeuroCare Ethiopia, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09370 (E) 090617

Please recycle

Statement

Advancing neurological care as a poverty reduction strategy

Introduction

Global NeuroCare, formerly NeuroCare Ethiopia, holding Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), fully supports the 2017 High-level Segment theme ("eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development") by focusing on strategies to achieve the Sustainable Developmental Goals, particularly Goal 3 seeking to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages," thereby reducing poverty [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) or 'Agenda'].

Findings

Poverty and health are inextricably entwined. The success of any poverty reduction strategy must be premised on improving healthcare, focusing on the most crucial needs. This necessitates addressing neurological disorders, which are the greatest threat to global public health. [World Health Organization (WHO) 2006, Neurological Disorders: Public Health Challenges].

The non-communicable neurological disorders are particularly disconcerting because the associated high rate of morbidity results in millions of people afflicted by poor cognition and physical impairment, and thus unable to reach their full potential, resulting in limited education, lost income and fewer opportunities, yet with overwhelming medical and social needs. This situation lowers productivity, increases marginalization, and exacerbates poverty, with profound effects on the economic, social and political stability of developing countries, which may precipitate civil disturbances and incite terrorism.

The single most effective means of combating these non-communicable disorders is to increase recruitment, training and retention of local medical staff in developing regions, especially in the least developed countries. This requires establishing a self-sufficient local training program to ensure sustainable staff development, an approach Global NeuroCare supports in Ethiopia, where the Addis Ababa University Neurology Residency Training Program has graduated 30 board-certified neurologists, each delivering care to many thousands of patients and, more importantly for the 100 million people in this underserved region, teaching general physicians how to care for common neurological conditions.

Establishing this type of training requires external support, which is seemingly available through the unprecedented growth of global health programs in the North, especially in United States of America academic medical centers. However, these programs have created a scramble for Africa characterized by brief self-serving medical missions that are highly advantageous to the sending institution, yet fail to provide any substantive benefit to the host nation and, in fact, can and do cause actual harm, impeding development of local medical care in the very regions it is most needed. Global NeuroCare reaffirms previous statements highlighting these harmful practices [E/2016/NGO/53; E/CN.5/2017/NGO/19].

Without action, the dangerous practices engendered by these medical missions will escalate with the continuing growth of global health programs. It is imperative to formulate guidelines for collaborative health partnerships to ensure developed countries 'do no harm,' thus protecting inherently vulnerable populations and improving healthcare [UN Charter, Articles 55,56]. Global NeuroCare reiterates an earlier statement summarizing model guidelines. [E/CN.5/2017/NGO/19].

Recommendations

Global NurseCare reaffirms previous recommendations to appoint a Special Rapporteur or Independent Expert in global health with a directive to publish relevant guidelines that will ethically promote North-South collaborative partnerships in accordance with the Agenda, thereby advancing healthcare and reducing poverty [E/CN.5/2017/NGO/19].

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Statement submitted by Roshd Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09371 (E) 120617

Please recycle

Statement

"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges".

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is first of the seventeen goals which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as "The Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) in 2015. It will be accessible if main causes and criteria are considered. Also addressing related challenges is a significant step during this process.

One of main challenges in front of the achievement of ending poverty is environmental problems and global warming which cause air and water pollution, drought and famine, extinction of animals and destruction of natural resources. They are primary results for concern while the secondary outcomes include an increase in poverty in some areas such as Northern Africa and the Middle East where farmers will not be able to continue their jobs when there is no water for farming. This creates a growth in food cost which can also increase poverty. Regarding SDG 13 Climate Action, United Nations has tried to signify the importance of saving nature and prevention of global warming with the Paris Environmental agreement at its recent action which contains commitments for decreasing the production of greenhouse gasses by countries.

On the other hand, another reason for the increase of poverty and social inequality in deprived and vulnerable areas is the growth of civil wars, terrorism activities and insecurity that initially prevents maximum use of the capacity of the community which destroy industrial and agricultural production. In fact, it reduces the supply of food and necessities for poor people, which forced them to leave their homes and countries. As a consequence, it makes the recent historical refugees crisis. In 2014, the number of refugees rose up to 14.4 million when most of them are vulnerable groups such as women and children. As former United Nations secretary general, Mr. Ban Ki-moon during the 71st United Nations General Assembly said "Not only refugees and immigrants are not seen as an extra responsibility but also they provide great potential for us", governments should manage this crisis in a way that cause to transform it into opportunities for both refugees and their own countries. Therefore eliminating this crisis needs an immediate action with collaboration of NGOs and global organizations to provide primary commodities and facilities for them.

Furthermore, barricades and bureaucracy are one of main restrictions for poverty eradication in some countries. Governments have to try to remove this kind of constraint to improve progress of equality and justice in deprived areas.

Finally, ending poverty in its all forms will be available by contribution of people, NGOs, governments and United Nations around the world when they be unified and arrange joint programs and projects.

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Statement submitted by Rural Development Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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17-09372 (E) 090617

Please recycle

Statement

Secure land rights are fundamental to the more than 750 million people who live on less than two dollars a day. In Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia the majority of employed women work in agriculture (60 and 70 percent, respectively). We appreciate the explicit inclusion of land rights, and particularly women's land rights, as a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Secure land rights for all are a critical component of the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets: the three land rights indicators (1.4.2, 5.a.1, and 5.a.2) are vital to ending poverty (goal 1), ensuring food security (goal 2), achieving gender equality and empowering women (goal 5), and making cities and human settlements inclusive (goal 11).

Indicator 1.4.2, in particular, focuses on the twin aims of tracking legal and administrative progress by governments in recognizing secure rights to land (documentation) and of people-defined progress on the quality of land rights (perceptions). In doing so, this indicator tracks the 2030 Agenda's land rights content developed through months of inclusive negotiation and consultation and satisfies the request in the United Nations Declaration that global indicators maintain the level of ambition of 2030 Agenda (Para. 75).

However, the challenges associated with generating and using data to track progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was echoed in the latest Report of the Workshop for 2017 Voluntary National Reviews at the High Level Political Forum. This report emphasizes the need for capacity development and complementary efforts to ensure adequate development and implementation of the agreed upon indicators.

To that end, we recommend to the United Nations agencies custodians of the land rights indicators [United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)], to the IAEG and Member States that as they work toward the recategorization of the land rights indicators from Tier III to Tier II, and eventually toward their implementation:

- They continuously engage global, regional, national and local level civil society actors and provide them with opportunities for meaningful involvement.
- They respect and uphold the letter and the spirit of the land rights indicators rather than narrowly reducing them to being limited to ownership (or ownership-like) rights to the detriment or exclusion of the millions of people who live in countries where the State owns all the land; who reside on communally-held land; or who are unable to afford to own land but require secure use rights.
- Instead of redefining the indicator to fit the available data, and in the process ignoring precisely the segments of the population the agenda seeks to reach, they acknowledge the data void and work to close it by expanding and improving the data gathering tools they currently have and by being open to new sources of data, such as an innovative global poll on property rights, that can help fill this void in a timely and cost-effective way.

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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09374 (E) 120617

Please recycle

Statement

World Family Summit 2016: Families in Balance — Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity ensuring that NO FAMILY IS LEFT BEHIND

Sao Paulo Declaration

On 1 January 2015, at an historic United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development, 193 world leaders approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development counting 17 Goals and 169 targets as a Plan of Action for People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace.

On 1 January 2016, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development officially came into force challenging all sectors of society to mobilize efforts to implement it and especially to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, tackle climate change and strengthen universal peace in large freedom.

The commitment to "leave no one behind" is a key feature that we must embark in a great collective journey ensuring that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Global Goals are translated into effective actions reaching everyone over the next 15 years.

Over the past decades we have seen dramatic changes shaping our world, our communities and our families. Societies are aging, more women work outside their homes and more of us live in the cities. The competitive and rapidly changing labor markets compel parents to be more mobile in search of decent jobs to support their families.

Family poverty is still with us. It is troubling for a simple reason: if we do not tackle poverty within families, it will continue in the next generation. Many families struggle to provide for their children and at the same time support their aging and often frail older family members. Many adopt strategies helping them to survive but jeopardizing their children's future, for instance taking children out of school to help take care of younger siblings.

Governments and civil society have an obligation to help families so that they do not resort to this type of strategies. They must be empowered to overcome poverty so that it does not continue in the next generation.

The 2016 World Family Summit "Families in Balance: Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity and ensuring that No Family is Left Behind" was our starting point. With our discussions and recommendations we had a unique opportunity to start paving the road and together fulfill the pledge on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda making sure that NO FAMILY WILL BE LEFT BEHIND". The 2016 World Family Summit brought together the experiences, good practices and the endeavors of governmental organizations, civil society organizations, local authorities, academia working on family issues across the world.

Ministers, representatives of governments at the national and local levels, Regional and International organizations, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, parliaments, the private sector, youth, media and families, numbering 183 participants from 87 countries representing all continents of the world came together at the World Family Summit 2016 which successfully concluded its agenda and unanimously approved the São Paulo Declaration which recommends the consideration of the following family related

issues as the main topics for mainstreaming actions at the local, national and regional levels:

1. Develop national strategies and plans of action on families based on the SDGs to ensure no family is left behind.

2. Ensure that national strategies on the families are integrated within the national development plans and resources are allocated for its implementation.

3. Advocate for decreasing the financial dependency of people living in poverty and ensure availability of active transformative social programs based on empowering people through capacity building.

4. Advocate for translating policy commitments made by the international community into concrete support for national social protection initiatives notably the ILO's Social Protection Floor Approach whilst promoting the transformative role of social protection.

5. Encourage adopting policies that extend social insurance schemes towards informal economy in order to reduce vulnerability and improve resilience of families.

6. Advocate for improving the efficiency of social safety nets in targeting the poorest by strengthening the institutional capacities, coordination and notably the evaluation of programs.

7. Recognize the importance of investing in Management information systems that ensures better efficiency in identifying and targeting the poor as well as facilitating the use of Multidimensional Poverty approaches.

8. Ensure that all the measures taken in the field of social protection are family sensitive.

9. Advocate for families' right to access quality primary health care services.

10. Provide programs that educate parents on their children's major developmental milestones as well as on how to support their children's cognitive, social, emotional and physical development from the moment of conception throughout childhood.

11. Encourage families to promote the intergenerational transmission of values, skills and knowledge through positive cultural practices.

12. Advocate for developing national comprehensive education plans as per the Education for All Goals (EFA) that include effective teacher training, better teaching methods, and better equipped schools.

13. Promote shared domestic responsibilities among family members.

14. Promote women's participation in the labor market, including providing equal pay, and advocating for work-family balance policies.

15. Promote women's economic independence including employment to eradicate the feminization of poverty.

16. Ensure equal access for all women to productive resources, opportunities, financial inclusion and public services.

17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, migrant workers and persons with disabilities and ensure secure and safe working environments for all.

18. Recognize essential unpaid domestic work including caregiving within the family through social protection benefits and transfers.

19. Encourage businesses to adopt family friendly policies, products and services that empower families in the market place and in the community.

20. Promote the entrepreneurial skills for women, youth and persons with disabilities by supporting SMEs.

21. Encourage local authorities to develop their plans in line with the targets of SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, sharing successful experiences on sustainable urban development including smart cities through multi-media and networking.

22. Encourage building infrastructure that makes urbanization and cities more accessible, inclusive, liveable and friendly to all generations.

23. Ensure that current refugee programs and partnerships include family reunification as an integral part in keeping with the 1951 convention on the status of refugees.

24. Raise public awareness on the international and national cause of conflicts that lead to internal displacement, refugee flows and migration, including geopolitical and economic resource interests and lobby governments to address them, in keeping with the UN charter and SDG 16 – Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions.

25. Launch new partnerships with different stakeholders to address the needs of internally displaced people, refugees and migrant families.

26. Encourage governments and local authorities to create mechanisms for the participation of families in developing the public budget.

27. Encourage partnerships with all stakeholders in the achievements of the SDGs including with the public and private sectors, CSOs, academia, media, and encourage coordination at all levels; International, Regional, National and Local.

28. Develop evidence based policies and interventions to ensure no family is left behind.

29. Empower civil society organizations to advocate for the importance of families' participation in the decision-making process to ensure effective achievement of the SDGs.

The World Family Organization with its members and partners believes that addressing and reinforcing these recommendations during the next decade will ensure that NO FAMILY WILL BE LEFT BEHIND.

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Statement submitted by World Jewellery Confederation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

17-09376 (E) 080617

Please recycle

Statement

World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) supports the theme of the 2017 ECOSOC High-level segment, and through the programme that it has devised for the international jewellery and gemstone industries seeks to further this goal.

A high-value product, sold predominantly in more affluent consumer markets, characterizes the jewellery and gemstone business. However, the raw materials of which these products are comprised are overwhelmingly sourced and largely processed in developing economies.

By helping orchestrate a shift of a larger proportion of the jewellery and gemstone industry's chain of distribution to these developing economies, thereby increasing their share of the total added value produced by the materials sourced in their territories, CIBJO believes that it is possible to create new economic opportunity and addressing related challenges is both sustainable and incremental, and which will be a critical element in helping to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions in regions where it is endemic. These primary opportunities in turn will result in secondary opportunities.

This shift is already occurring. In the diamond industry, for example, whereas the predominant rough distribution hub for more than a century was London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, today this is managed in the producing countries. Furthermore, increasing proportion of raw materials is retained in the producing countries to be processed domestically, rather than being exported for processing in other countries. This constitutes new evidence in poverty eradication efforts.

It is CIBJO's belief that, while these processes are imperative, they will be inadequate if the ethical integrity of the jewellery and gemstone product is not ensured, and also if the opportunities being created in these developing economies do not permeate into the grassroots of the communities. CIBJO is acting in both these respects allowing inclusive economic growth.

Through its educational arm, the World Jewellery Confederation Educational Foundation (WJCEF), and with the support of the Italian Exhibition Group, CIBJO has devised an educational programme that is designed to provide solutions for ethical challenges, including conflict minerals, money laundering and terrorist financing, corruption, unfair labour practices and improper health and safety, while at the same time emphasizing ways in which the industry can have positive social impacts.

CIBJO is also working with third parties to develop online and offline tools that can be used by the industry to trace and monitor the integrity of the chain of distribution, and also to ensure that the protocols that are adopted by the industry can easily be applied to small and medium-sized enterprises. The online tools can also monitor positive social and economic impacts.

Additionally, CIBJO also has implemented a comprehensive programme designed to protect the physical environment and biodiversity in areas where gemstones and jewellery are produced. This includes educational activities, and also a carbon-offsetting programme. In certain instances, particularly in the pearl sector, responsible environmental management contributes to the quality of the product produced, and thus improves its economic viability and sustainability.

In summary, CIBJO obtains transformational changes that promote opportunities, increase inclusive economic growth and sustainable development for all through partnerships.

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Statement submitted by Yakutia — Our Opinion, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

Eradicating poverty is a very important Sustainable Development Goal. Implementing indigenous rights can make great contributions to poverty eradication.

The world population now stands at seven billion inhabitants. There are more than 2,000 nations in the world. Consider the situation as an example of Russia, one of the biggest countries in the world. Russia is multinational country with more than 190 nations.

Unfortunately, Russia did not endorse of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Russian authorities only recognize rights of small-numbered indigenous peoples with less than 50,000 inhabitants but do not recognize rights of other indigenous peoples with more than 50,000 members, for example, Sakha people with about 400,000 members.

Sakha people live in the biggest Russia's subject — Republic Sakha (Yakutia). The small-numbered indigenous peoples Evenks, Evens, Yukaghirs, Chukchis, Russia's peoples Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars and others also live in Yakutia. This region exceeds the area of France by 5 times, Italy — 10 and England by 13 times.

Despite the existence of natural resources (diamonds, gold, oil, gas) majority of multinational people of Yakutia live in poverty. Yakutians do not receive tangible benefits from the resources extraction. Yakutia have many problems such as unfavourable ecological situation, alcoholism, suicide, crime.

Russian high-ranking officials lobby interests of the resource extraction companies that aim to minimize costs through non-payment of compensation to local population and refusal to finance activities to ensure industrial and environmental safety. It is one of main reasons for non-approval of UNDRIP.

It is important to note that international law on indigenous peoples does not infringe upon the rights of other peoples. Regrettably, Russia's federal authorities do not understand it.

But in Yakutia, the Constitutional court made a right and honourable decision. Constitutional court of Republic Sakha (Yakutia) adopted the Decision No.4-p of October 21, 2016 in the case the interpretation of the provisions of article 42 of the Constitution of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia).

The Decision stated that the territory of Yakutia is the native land and historical homeland of the Sakha people, the source of its economic well-being, unique cultural and linguistic identity, and the constitutional and legal status of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia) is a form of its socio-political and state-legal organization as a national community in the Russian state.

The decision was supported by the public organization "Somogo Kuus (United Force)" that protects economic, legal, ecological, political rights of indigenous people Sakha and other peoples in Yakutia.

In this statement, Chairman of the General Meeting of this organization Dmitri Dmitrievich Ivanov appeals to international community to influence on Russian authorities:

1. to recognize the status of indigenous people Sakha;
2. to approve the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

3. to implement the rights of indigenous people Sakha in according to provisions of international law on indigenous peoples.

NGO Yakutia — Our Opinion supports this appeal of Dmitri Ivanov and urges the United Nations bodies and stakeholders to compel Russian Federation to respect the rights of all indigenous peoples that live in Russia.